New blocks for CBM exploration

808. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received 54 bids for coal bed methane blocks in third round;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBM-III round had attracted more bids than the earlier two rounds put together;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to offer more blocks to the private sector in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS.(SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes Sir, Government has received 54 bids for the 10 blocks offered under CBM-III round.

(b) Yes, Sir, Government have received 14 and 16 bids for the blocks offered under CBM-I and II rounds respectively as compared to 54 bids in CBM-III alone.

(c) and (d) The Government under the New Exploration Licensing Policy as well a Coal Bed Methane Policy has provided a level playing field wherein it invites bids from private and public sector companies and Indian as well a foreign companies under an Internationally Competitive Bidding (ICB) system.

Share of taxes in price of petrol

809. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene and gas cylinder have been increased during the period from 1st April, 2003 to 1st July, 2006 mentioning the slabs and dates of increase;